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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/692,247

10/23/2003

Susan Rae Anderson

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EXAMINER

WEDDINGTON, KEVIN E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1614

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/24/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/692,247

Applicant(s)

ANDERSON ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin E. Weddington

Art Unit

1614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 April 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18,20-24 and 26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18,20-24 and 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

Claims 1-18, 20-24 and 26 are presented for examination.

Applicants' amendment and response filed April 26, 2007 have been received and entered.

Accordingly, the rejection made under 35 USC 102 as set forth in the previous Office action dated February 1, 2007 at pages 2 and 3 is hereby withdrawn because the cite reference, Creasy et al. (4,875,287), does not teach the addition of a polyethylene oxide with the water-sensitive soluble polymer.

The rejection made under 35 USC 103 as set forth in the previous Office action dated February 1, 2007 at pages 4-6 is hereby withdrawn because the cited reference, Creasy et al., (4,875,287) does not teach the optimum weight percentages of the chelating agents.

Claims 1-17 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to the non-elected invention (37 CFR 1.142(b)).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 18, 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

This is a written description rejection.

Claims 18, 20-24 and 26 described compounds that are a chelating agent and at least one of the water-sensitive polymers or the water-insoluble polymer has a functional group capable of forming a chelate with a metal ion of the insoluble metal salt. Note the chelating agent is a polymer, different from the water-sensitive polymer and the water-insoluble polymer having a functional group capable of forming a chelate with a metal ion of the insoluble metal salt. The instant claims cover all compounds having the pharmaceutical property of being are a chelating agent, and at least one of the water-sensitive polymer or the water-insoluble polymer has a functional group capable of forming a chelate with a metal ion of the insoluble metal salt. Describing a compound by its functions will not substitute for written description of the structure of the compound. The invention should be described in such a way as to described what the invention is, not what the invention does. Describing the function of a compound fails to distinguish the compound from other molecules or agents that can perform the same functions.

Undue experimentation is a conclusion reaches by weighing the noted factual considerations set forth below as seen in *In re Wands*, 858 F. 2d 731, 737, 8 USPQ2d 1400, 1401 (Fed. Cir. 1988). A conclusion of lack of enablement means that, based on the evidence regarding a fair evaluation of an appropriate combination of the factors below, the specification, at the time the application was filed, would not have taught one skilled in the art how to make and/or use the full scope of the claimed invention without undue experimentation.

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The factors include:

- 1) the quantity of experimentation necessary
- 2) the amount of direction or guidance provided
- 3) the presence or absence of working examples
- 4) the nature of the invention
- 5) the state of the art
- 6) the relative skill of those in the art
- 7) the predictability of the art and
- 8) the breadth of the claims

The instant specification fails to provide guidance that would allow the skilled artisan background sufficient to practice that instant invention without resorting to undue experimentation in view of further discussion below.

The nature of the invention, state of the prior art, relative skill of those in the art and the predictability of the art

Claims 18, 22 and 23 are directed to compounds that are a chelating agent, and at least one of the water-sensitive polymers or the water-insoluble polymer has a functional group capable of forming a chelate with a metal ion of the insoluble metal salt. The instant claims cover all compounds having pharmaceutical property of being known as a compound (are a chelating agent, and at least one of the water-sensitive polymer or the water-insoluble polymer has a functional group capable of forming a chelate with a metal ion of the insoluble metal salt).

The instant claims are very broad. For instance, claims 18, 20, 22 and 23 are to a plethora of compounds of as described by the functional properties.

The relative skill of those in the art is generally that of a Ph.D. or M.D.

One skilled in the art would not predict from the instant disclosure which compounds would fall under the umbrella of functional description of being known as broadly as are a chelating agent, and at least one of the water-sensitive polymer or the water-insoluble polymer has a functional group capable of forming a chelate with a metal ion of the insoluble metal salt. In fact, the courts have made a distinction between mechanical elements function the same in different circumstances, yielding predictable results, chemical and biological compounds often react unpredictably under different circumstances.

The breadth of the claims

The claims are very broad and inclusive to all are a chelating agent, and at least one of the water-sensitive polymers or the water-insoluble polymer has a functional group capable of forming a chelate with a metal ion of the insoluble metal salt.

The amount of direction or guidance provided and the presence or absence of working examples

The examples shown in the instant specification:

a) the water-sensitive polymer comprising polyethylene oxide is POLYOX or POLYOX WSR N-750.

b) the chelating agent is PSSNa.

No examples showing the other water-sensitive polymers comprising polyethylene oxide such as carboxymethylcellulose or polyacrylic acid.

No examples showing the other chelating agents such as EDTA or sodium gluconate.

No examples showing a water-insoluble polymer has a functional group capable of forming a chelate with a metal ion of the insoluble metal salt.

The quantity of experimentation necessary

Applicants have failed to provide guidance as to how the skilled artisan would be able to extrapolate from the disclosure and examples provided to make and possibly use the claimed invention. The amount of guidance or direction needed to enable the invention is inversely related to the degree of predictability in the art. Thus, although a single embodiment may provide broad enablement in cases involving predictable factors, such as mechanical or electrical elements, in cases involving unpredictable factors, such as most chemical reactions and physiological activity, more teaching or guidance is required. (In re Fischer, 427 F. 2d 839, 166 USPQ 24; Ex Parte Hitzeman, 9 USPQ 2d 1823).

The quantity of experimentation needed to be performed by one skilled in the art is yet another factor involved in the determining whether “undue experimentation” is required to make and use the instant invention. The test is not merely quantitative, since a considerable amount of experimentation is permissible, if it is merely routine, or if the specification in question provides a reasonable amount of guidance with respect to the direction in which the experimentation should

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proceed. In view of the information set forth supra, the instant disclosure is not seen to be sufficient to describe the use of any compound, which is regarded as the functional description of a compound (are a chelating agent, and at least one of the water-sensitive polymer or the water-insoluble polymer has a functional group capable of forming a chelate with a metal ion of the insoluble metal salt).

Therefore, undue experimentation would be required to practice the invention as it is claimed in its current scope.

Claims 18, 22 and 23 are not allowed.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.



This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 18, 20-24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Creasy et al. (4,875,287) in view of Ramachandran et al. (5,589,545).

Creasy et al. teach the combination of various components such as an organic-solvent polymer (water-insoluble polymer), a hydrophilic polymer (water-sensitive polymer), and chelates (chelating agent) into a shaving strip combination.

The instant invention differs from the cited reference in that the cited reference does not teach the applicants' preferred water-sensitive soluble polymer comprising polyethylene oxide. However, the secondary reference, Ramachandran et al., teaches water-sensitive polymers comprising polyethylene oxide are well-known to be used as lubricious strips for razors (See the abstract).

Clearly, one skilled in the art would have assumed the use of the water-sensitive polymer comprising polyethylene oxide in place of the water-sensitive

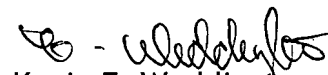
polymer of the Creasy et al. reference, would achieve the same lubricious effects in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

Claims 18, 20-24 and 26 are not allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin E. Weddington whose telephone number is (571)272-0587. The examiner can normally be reached on 12:30 pm-9:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ardin Marschel can be reached on (571)272-0718. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
Kevin E. Weddington  
Primary Examiner  
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K. Weddington

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May 21, 2007